



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 20, 2008  
Week Ending: October 19, 2008  
CWP WA-CW4008

## Rain Needed for Winter Wheat Growing Areas

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Moisture was still needed for winter wheat seeding and many producers were waiting for rain to finish seeding. Sweet corn harvest continued on the west side of the State and fall work such as tillage and harvesting late crops continued on the east side of the State. Christmas tree growers continued preparing for the harvest season.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, temperatures were above normal and growers completed harvest of Jonagold and Granny Smith and moved to later varieties. On the west side of the state U-Pick pumpkins reported excellent sales, greenhouse tomato growers were winding down harvest and raspberry growers were wrapping up pruning.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 16 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 19 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Pastures continued to improve on the west side and hay sales remained strong due to supplemental feeding of livestock. Cattle continued to be moved to winter pastures. Oyster harvest was underway.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	6.2

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	30	47	8
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	24	59	8
Subsoil	20	43	36	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	34	50	1
Irrigation Water	1	4	94	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	18	21	56	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	87	82	92	94
Winter Wheat Emerged	62	60	70	73
Potatoes Harvested	87	78	85	89
Field Corn Doughed	100	98	100	100
Field Corn Dented	100	92	100	100
Field Corn Mature	51	35	97	99
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	36	14	58	55
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	70	52	86	88
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	99	97	98	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	92	69	98	NA

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	57	41	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** The weather was cloudy with temperatures in the 50s for a high and in the 30s and 40s for the lows. Crops were behind schedule in some areas.

**Clark:** It was very good weather over the weekend for farm direct marketers. Pumpkins were the main attraction.

**Grays Harbor:** U-Pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales over the weekend as customers took advantage of sunny, brisk weather to choose the perfect pumpkin for carving. Christmas tree growers continued inventorying fields for harvest. Sweet corn growers planted winter cover crops in harvested fields. Commercial blueberry growers mowed cover crops in established fields. Greenhouse tomato growers finished this year's harvest season. Home gardeners continued adding leaves to the compost pile.

**Pacific:** Fall weather conditions provided an opportunity for growers to finish a variety of late season activities. Cranberry growers completed harvest operations, with projected yields about 20 percent below average. Pasture conditions improved with rainfall. Raspberry producers finished pruning operations for this year's bearing canes. Oyster growers initiated major harvest activities for fall, with good market conditions expected to continue through the holidays.

**Snohomish/King:** The temperatures seemed to cool off. Temperatures were in the 50s for a high and lows of 40s and some 30s. Crops were still behind schedule for this time of year.

**Snohomish/King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Showers received through the week slowed field work. The nice weekend weather encouraged folks to visit their local u-pick pumpkin farms. Apple harvest continued. Farmers harvested the last batch of haylage. Home gardeners were busy raking leaves and prepping gardens for winter.

**Thurston:** Brisk, sunny conditions prevailed throughout most of the week providing agricultural producers an opportunity to complete fall chores prior to winter rains. Christmas tree growers continued getting machinery ready for the harvest season. Livestock producers mowed pastures for weed control and repaired fences. Organic vegetable growers continued harvesting fall produce and planting winter cover crops in previously harvested fields. U-pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales throughout the weekend. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and harvesting squash.

## Central

**Chelan:** Apple harvest continued at full speed. It was good weather for harvest. Labor supply was adequate. Fuji, Granny Smith and Pink Lady varieties were yet to be picked.

**Kittitas:** Leaves were nearly fully turned and falling. The area had a few more frosts. Ranchers were cleaning off irrigated pastures. A small amount of hay was harvested to clear fields for clean spring growth.

**Klickitat:** Minimal wind and blue sky days brought temperatures as high as 70 degrees by Friday. It was a pleasant week for outdoor activities. Lows dropped below freezing at upper elevations during a couple of nights. Overnight temperatures were mostly in the mid 30s to low 40s. Planting conditions were still good. There was no rain received, raising concerns for too dry of conditions heading into the winter months. No frosts yet in the Columbia Gorge orchard and vineyard districts. Orchard activities included finishing up irrigation and settling the trees for winter. Grape harvest was about 75 percent completed, but on hold awaiting space at the wineries. Grapes were coming in with good tonnage and quality.

**Yakima:** The average temperatures were warmer than normal; varying from seven degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Daytime high temperatures remained in the mid to upper 60s, except on October 15. The daytime high only reached the mid 50s and the nighttime low reached into the lower 30s, setting the first frost date for a few cropping areas. Growers finished up harvest of apple varieties like Jonagold and Granny Smith and started harvest of the later maturing varieties like Braeburn, Fuji, and Red Delicious. Grape producers were in the midst of Concord grape harvest and began harvest of the earlier wine grape varieties.

## Eastern

**Adams:** With no measurable precipitation received, the weather was cooperative for wrapping up final hay cuttings and digging potatoes. Wheat growers awaited rainfall to finish fall seeding. Previously seeded wheat continued to emerge. Many fields showed spots that will require reseeding in the spring.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat seeding will be completed by the end of October.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather remained dry. Winter wheat struggled to emerge in many areas. Rain was needed.

**Ferry:** Crop season was completed. Cows were coming home for winter.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was completed except for the drier areas where producers were waiting for rain to begin planting. Some supplemental feeding of livestock began.

**Pend Oreille:** The temperature high was 58 degrees and the low was 19 degrees. Precipitation received was .15 inch. Warm weather thawed the ground and grass was growing. Livestock were being fed with some hay but were mainly pasture grazing. All farming had stopped for the winter in this area of the state.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** It was another dry week in Spokane County but rain was reported in Pend Oreille County. Fall-like conditions continued. Lack of rainfall concerned winter wheat producers. Their seeded wheat had sprouted and was running out of moisture to continue growth. A good shot of rain was much needed. Fall work continued with finishing up of fall tillage and fertilizing bluegrass. Rangeland looked dry and in need of moisture. Apple harvest continued up on Green Bluff.

**Walla Walla:** Fall planted crops emerged and looked good. Potato and corn harvest progressed well. Apples were harvested as were grapes. It was a very busy time for late fall crops.

**Whitman:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed. Conditions were very dry in September and October and germination and emergence were behind normal. Rainfall was needed. Temperatures were above normal. Most operations were completing field work such as fall tillage.

## Weekly Weather Statistics October 20, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham_Intl	30	59	46	-5	6	-3	0	+0	0.95	+0.18	5	2.32	-1.53	60	17
Hoquiam	33	60	50	-5	13	-16	0	+0	0.47	-0.92	4	3.36	-3.30	50	17
Kelso	34	68	52	-2	21	+1	0	+0	0.12	-0.72	2	1.36	-3.08	31	11
Olympia	30	67	49	-2	12	+5	0	+0	0.22	-0.73	3	2.52	-2.01	56	15
Seattle-Tacoma_	40	63	51	-2	17	-3	0	+0	0.39	-0.32	3	2.24	-1.37	62	16
Shelton	28	62	49	-3	11	-6	0	+0	0.54	-0.67	2	3.70	-1.87	66	13
Tacoma_WA_AP	29	65	50	-2	17	+2	0	+0	0.23	-0.49	2	1.76	-1.91	48	13
Vancouver_WA	35	71	54	+3	37	+19	0	+0	0.05	-0.64	2	2.05	-1.66	55	15
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	25	70	52	+6	26	+23	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	0.56	-0.23	71	4
Omak_AP	31	67	50	+4	9	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.74	-0.54	58	6
Stampede_Pass	31	59	42	+3	2	+2	0	+0	1.39	-0.05	4	3.94	-2.92	57	17
Wenatchee_AP	33	66	51	+1	17	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.09	0	0.21	-0.39	35	2
Yakima_AP	26	70	51	+2	22	+11	0	+0	0.00	-0.12	0	0.56	-0.07	89	2
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	28	67	47	+3	8	+8	0	+0	0.05	-0.23	1	1.40	-0.36	80	7
Deer_Park	22	64	44	-4	3	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.23	0	1.39	-0.03	98	6
Republic	30	64	48	+6	7	+7	0	+0	0.09	-0.12	1	0.69	-0.68	50	5
Spokane_AP	29	67	49	+2	12	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.81	-0.40	67	9
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	35	68	52	+1	17	+1	0	+0	0.01	-0.08	1	0.38	-0.19	67	6
Moses_Lake	28	69	50	-2	14	-2	0	+0	0.01	-0.08	1	0.26	-0.31	46	5
Quincy	34	66	51	+2	13	+3	0	+0	0.00	-0.11	0	0.38	-0.28	58	3
Ritzville	27	70	48	-1	8	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.17	0	0.29	-0.69	30	5
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	35	73	55	+1	39	+6	1	+1	0.00	-0.07	0	0.29	-0.24	55	3
Pasco	28	76	53	+1	31	+7	0	+0	0.03	-0.11	1	0.25	-0.37	40	3
Pullman	30	70	49	+1	12	+3	0	+0	0.03	-0.28	2	0.73	-1.02	42	9
Walla_Walla_Rgn	34	73	55	+2	40	+11	2	+2	0.03	-0.31	1	1.00	-0.78	56	9
Whitman_Mission	19	75	49	-2	19	+7	0	+0	0.01	-0.20	1	0.69	-0.54	56	8
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston_ID	37	74	54	+3	29	+6	3	+3	0.07	-0.14	2	1.04	-0.28	79	8

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2008  
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
 NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation  
 Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2008/summary/weth1606.pdf>  
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